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Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 /031 W
---------- 123531
R 281707Z OCT 76
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3181

UNCLAS GENEVA 8493

DEPT ALSO PASS TO DR. P. EHRLICH, OIH/DHEW, AND DR. L. HOWARD, AID

EO: 11652: N/A
TAGS: WHO
SUBJ: SUMMARY AND MAJOR CONCLUSIONS,IWHO/UNDP/TDR TECHNICAL REVIEW GROUP MEETING, 23-28 SEPTEMBER 1976

1. THE FINAL REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL REVIEW GROUP GENEVA MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23-28 ON THE WHO SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING TO TROPICAL DISEASES HAS JUST APPEARED. COPIES HAVE BEEN MAILED TODAY TO DR. LEE HOWARD, AID, MR. ROBERT ANDREW, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND DR. PAUL EHRLICH, DHEW. A SUMMARY AND MAJOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT APPEAR BELOW.

2. THE TECHNICAL REVIEW GROUP MET TO CONSIDER THE EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTATION ON THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES, AND TO PROVIDE A CRITICAL INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRAM BOTH WITH REGARD TO ITS BROAD OBJECTIVES AND THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. ITS MAJOR CONCLUSIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A) THE GROUP STRONGLY ENDORSED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROPOSALS MADE FOR IT BE IMPLEMENTED WITH THE MODIFICATIONS THAT ARE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT.

B) THE PROPOSED BALANCE BETWEEN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOOLS ON THE ONE HAND, AND INSTITUTION STRENGTHENING AND TRAINING ON THE OTHER, WAS REALISTIC AND TOOK ACCOUNT OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS; BOTH OF THESE FACETS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE SPECIAL PROGRAM AND BOTH SHOULD BE SUPPORTED.

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C) THE SPECIAL PROGRAM MUST BE CAPABLE OF RESPONDING TO REAL AND

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CHANGING NEEDS IN DISEASE CONTROL. STRONG SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT BASED ON CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT OF PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES MUST BE BUILT INTO THE SPECIAL PROGRAM AND THE GROUP PUT FORWARD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR ITS OPERATION.

D) THE CONTROL OF TROPICAL DISEASES IS ULTIMATELY RELATED TO THE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF TROPICAL COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE RURAL POOR. ECONOMIC RESEARCH SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AS AN ACTIVITY INTEGRAL TO THE SPECIAL PROGRAM AND SHOULD PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR THE PRIORITIES IN PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

E) THE GROUP MADE A NUMBER OF DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT. THESE INCLUDED REDUCTION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR SCHISTOSOMIASIS, INCREASE OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FILARIASIS, CHANGES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR TRYPANOSOMIASIS AND A RECOMMENDATION THAT INCREASED ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF VECTOR BIOLOGY AND CONTROL.

F) AT THE PRESENT TIME, SOPHISTICATED LABORATORY RESEARCH EXPERTISE IS TO BE FOUND CHIEFLY IN NON-TROPICAL COUNTRIES FOR RESEARCH OF THIS TYPE. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO INVOLVE THESE FACILITIES AND IT WILL BE NECESSARY THAT INFORMATION ON THE SPECIAL PROGRAM BE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED TO REACH ALL SCIENTISTS WHO COULD BE INVOLVED.

G) THE GROUP REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OBJECTIVE OF INCREASING RESEARCH CAPABILITY IN THE TROPICAL COUNTRIES; IN THE LONG TERM, IT IS IN THIS WAY THAT THE SPECIAL PROGRAM WILL MAKE ITS GREATEST IMPACT ON DISEASE CONTROL. SPECIFICALLY, THE GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROPOSED RESEARCH TRAINING COMMITTEE BE STRENGTHENED TO BECOME A COMMITTEE FOR INSTITUTION STRENGTHENING AND TRAINING AND THAT THIS COMMITTEE BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, HEALTH, MEDICAL CARE, RESEARCH, PERSONNEL TRAINING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA08493
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760403-0764
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761010/aaaaaicp.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION HEW
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <23 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMARY AND MAJOR CONCLUSIONS,IWHO/UNDP/TDR TECHNICAL REVIEW GROUP MEETING, 23-28 SEPTEMBER 1976
TAGS: TBIO, WHO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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